



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
401 Methodist Building
1060 Chapline Streets
Wheeling WV 26003

April 24, 2002

Document ID Number: 2089
AR: Chalk Point Oil Spill

Title: Swanson Creek Long-Term Monitoring Plan
[LTM Plan] transmittal letter from EPA

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

CDR Wade Blake
NOAA
c/o USCG_GMOR
2100 2nd Street SW
Washington, DC 20593

Re: Swanson Creek Marsh Oil Spill Site
Pepco Chalk Point Generating Station
Aquasco, Prince George's County, Maryland

Dear CDR Blake:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Final Swanson Creek & Patuxent River Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTM Plan) dated April 2002 prepared by ENTRIX, Inc. on behalf of the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Support Terminal Services as required under paragraph 8.4(a) of Unilateral Administrative Order (Docket No. CWA- III-2000-023CW). This document describes the long-term monitoring program for areas of Swanson Creek, the Patuxent River and adjoining tributaries which continue to show residual oil contamination.

The LTM Plan as presented includes the quantitative long-term monitoring program based on the Site Characterization Study conducted in August 2000, monitoring conducted during the 2001 sampling season and comments submitted by your agency in September 2001. The LTM Plan also includes the qualitative long-term monitoring plan for assessment of environmentally sensitive areas identified under the provisional approval process as discussed during the March 5, 2002 meeting with representatives from the Natural Resources Trustees and Unified Command.

EPA appreciates the input provided by your agency on the long-term monitoring program. Based on all of the Natural Resource Trustee comments, I consider the long-term monitoring plan to be a comprehensive program protective of the environment which meets the objectives of the response actions as required under the Unilateral Order. Therefore, EPA would like to move forward in finalizing and implementing the long-term monitoring program. I have reviewed the enclosed Response to Comments prepared by ENTRIX, Inc. and believe the responses adequately address the comments submitted by all of the Natural Resource Trustees. Please, review the final LTM Plan and corresponding Response to Comments to ensure your agency's concerns have been addressed. I am also attaching a matrix which summarizes the long-term monitoring program elements that have been incorporated into the LTM Plan based on these comments.

To ensure that all the Natural Resource Trustees have time to review and/or coordinate reviews within their agencies, please provide concurrence within 30 days of receipt of this letter or no later than May 28, 2002. If you should have any comments, please call me at (304) 234-0249 or email me at carlson.deborah@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Deborah Carlson
On-Scene Coordinator
Removal Enforcement and Oil Section

Enclosures

cc: CDR Wade Blake (NOAA)
Beth McGee (USFW)
Robert Summers (MDE)
Alan Williams (MDE)
Carolyn Watson (MDNR)
David Heilmeier (MDNR)
Gary Beeson (Pepco)
Dylan Morgan (ST Services)

2002 SWANSON CREEK LONG-TERM MONITORING PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Program Element	Number of Stations	Analyses	Annual Sampling Schedule	Endpoint
Intertidal/Subtidal Sediment	6 + 1 background	TPH, TOC, TPAH	Late spring, Late summer	TU<0.9
Marsh Cores*	10 + 1 background	TPH, TOC, selective TPAH	Late spring, Late summer	TU<0.9 (0-6 inches deep)
Marsh Surface Sediment (from biostim program)	8	TPH, TOC, TPAH	Late spring, Late summer	TU<0.9
Vegetation Monitoring*	10 + 1 background	(Stem height, stem density, condition, percent aerial cover)	Late summer	85% cover
Bivalve Tissue	1-2 (depending on availability)	TPAH	Late summer	TPAH within range of area reference data (mussel watch program for Chesapeake Bay)
Qualitative Monitoring	Representative stations to be determined Spring 2002	(observations)	Mid-late summer	Phase II Criteria

* Data from marsh core samples and vegetation quadrats will be incorporated into NOAA soil decomposition study.